

GROUND COVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP

APRIL 2011

VOLUME TWO

ISSUE THREE

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GROUNDCOVERNEWS MISSION:

Groundcover News exists to create opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.

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Threat to collective bargaining is no April Fool's joke

by Susan Beckett
Publisher

The pranking season is upon us and amid the whoopee cushions and water spraying flowers, the rug is being pulled out from under working people in the United States. Rights and protections for which our forebears fought and died are being circumvented. This erosion is often so subtle that it is not even noticed.

Recent state government attacks on collective bargaining brought some of this into the public discourse but much remains in the background. Governor Snyder's call for the abolishment of laws that prevent the renegotiation of existing contracts is a real and present danger to collective bargaining agreements. And how many consumer and worker protections are lost if contracts are no longer respected?

Emergency powers now afforded Michigan's governor to replace elected city officials with his own appointed representatives and appoint state financial

managers, whose sweeping powers include the ability to nullify city and school district contracts, undermine our democratic process as well as the contracts they void. Further, state revenue sharing will be based on local governments' adherence to Snyder's dictates on employee

our fundamental rights of representation by elected officials.

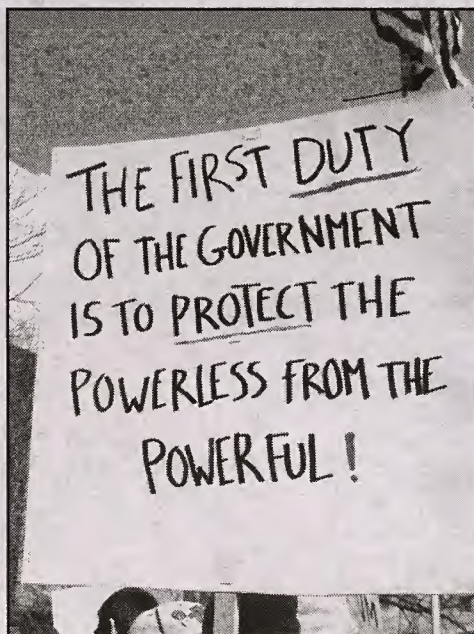
This is particularly unsettling when paired with the decades' long trend of national and state governments being unduly influenced by corporate interests who fund politicians' ever-more-expensive campaigns. Governments now routinely cater to corporate interests, justifying their actions as necessary to attract and retain jobs, while jobs that pay enough to support a family disappear just the same.

The unenforced worker and environmental provisions in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) treaty exemplify how corporations now moderate governments instead of governments regulating corporations. Unfettered capitalism promulgated by ungoverned multi-national corporations is leading us to wealth

discrepancies of historic proportions.

Beneficiaries of these policies, like the Wall Street stockbrokers recently interviewed by NPR about the bank bailout and subsequent profits and bonuses, feel entitled to take all they can because they are "smarter" than average people. Governmental regulation that might inhibit their profits is an affront to them. Greed has largely supplanted the common good as a corporate value, in part because these corporations are no longer American, or European, or Japanese, etc. They have no loyalty except to the bottom line.

We just witnessed the largest protest in Lansing's history, with State Police arresting people to clear the capitol. Take a good look at the uprisings in Africa and the Middle East. Unless the public at large finds non-violent ways to change the behavior of leaders and corporations, we could be looking at our future, as young unemployed college graduates and aging laid off workers mired in debt take to the streets and demand the return of our country.



compensation formulas, consolidation of services with other communities, and accountability and transparency. This attack on local autonomy, the last bastion of representative democracy, undermines

Letter to the Editor

Near North Development could have been different

Your headline got it right—the Near North development does “raise complex questions.” We appreciate writer Christopher Alexander's hard work as he tried to understand them. As Groundcover noted, we believe our neighborhood will suffer if this big, institutional-looking project is built. But it didn't have to be this way. We welcome Avalon's efforts to provide “supportive” housing, and even asked them to build more supportive units at Near North. We're sorry that they decided instead to devote most of this needlessly oversized building to what Groundcover accurately calls “near

market rate” apartments. Contrary to Groundcover's article, none of the seven historic homes that will be torn down for the project was ever “condemned.” When the developers bought them, all were occupied by working families and individuals. Those who didn't own their own homes paid about \$330 per bedroom per month. As Groundcover noted, Near North's one-bedroom apartments will rent for \$774. Crazy as it sounds, this \$15 million “affordable housing” project will actually make our neighborhood more expensive to live in. We hope that future Avalon projects show more respect for their neighbors, and use public funding for low-income housing more effectively.

Margaret Schankler
NCPOA Planning Committee



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Breaking away from the traditional cow paths in life

by Rev. Dr. Martha Brunell
Pastor, Bethlehem United Church
of Christ

Here at Bethlehem United Church of Christ, there are several small groups studying and discussing Barbara Brown Taylor's *An Altar in the World*. We meet, talk, and wonder on Wednesdays during these weeks of Lent. It is a well-written and provoking book on intentional spiritual practices which fill our ordinary days. This past week we took a look at her practice of getting lost, the practice of the wilderness. She starts out with a metaphor of cow paths on the land where she and her husband live in rural Georgia. Her observation is that cows commonly walk single file down paths

established by the repeated coming and going of their hooves. There is no need to think about it, to choose a pathway. They use the ones they already know. These paths tend to traverse either the shortest or the easiest way between two points. Watching the cows causes her to reflect on the well-trod routes we often follow without conscious intention.

Our safe and secure roadways of life remain largely in place for most of us unless circumstances shove us off the familiar dirt, sand, mud, gravel, or asphalt. Such route-altering circumstances include death, illness, betrayal, loss of fortune or job, foreclosure of home, violence, and major rifts with those we love. Those moments often return us to

a consciousness about every step we are able to take on scary ground. We don't have to wait for dramatic moments to shake up our balance and cause us to step out where we have never been before. We can get off the pathway of our own accord to have a new experience, to take a risk, to go outside old boundaries, to be more deliberate and conscious in our daily lives.

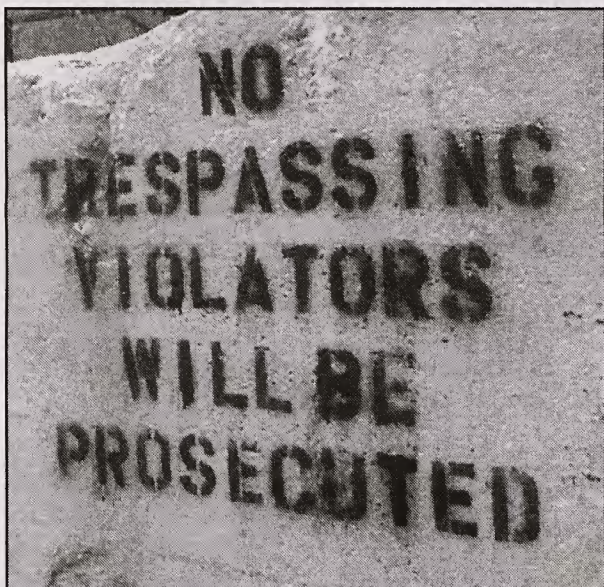
As we have been considering cow paths at Bethlehem, I have thought about what cow paths Groundcover disturbs. Does it open our eyes to an issue we have only occasionally or periodically seen? Are our hopes raised by the possibility of a good product, a steady income, and a new future? Do we get to engage in

meaningful work with a diverse group of people? Is our compassion stretching into fresh and broader shapes? And what about the joy that is ours when together with others we make a real difference? Facing a big issue like homelessness, we can simply follow single file along familiar, easy paths that don't challenge, confront, or create new realities. Or we can take off across life's wide open pastures, vulnerable, uncertain, but expectant concerning possibilities that lie out there.

Spring is a great time to break ranks, leave the old path, and discover something new that awaits us. Can we help one another get off the path?

FEATURE

Trespassed! Homeless left with nowhere to go - literally



by Andrew Nixon and
Marquise Williams

Perhaps no segment of society is more profoundly affected by trespassing policy than the homeless population. Although the Ann Arbor Police Department was unable to supply exact figures, a number of homeless individuals in Ann Arbor are banned from public or private properties each year. In some cases, they are being denied access to essential services such as food, lodging, and public transportation.

A no trespass order – often referred to simply as a “trespass” – is a police order legally banning an individual from a premise for violating the property owner's code of conduct. Such orders are issued for many different reasons, ranging from squatting on

private property to violent behavior, sexual predation, and alcohol and drug use. Once an individual has been delivered an order by a police officer, he or she cannot come within 20 feet of the property for a period of one year, according to state law. Violating a trespass is considered a misdemeanor and is an arrestable offense.

Homeless people are particularly vulnerable to trespassing charges, largely because they have nowhere permanent to call home.

Many, though perhaps not a majority, struggle with mental health and drug abuse problems, disposing them to antisocial behavior. Homelessness is a vicious cycle, isolating individuals in need from their community, compounding the challenges they face.

The Shelter Association of Washtenaw County (SAWC) is a primary resource for homeless people in the area. Housed at the Robert J. Delonis Center in Ann Arbor, SAWC provides a wide array of essential services to individuals experiencing homelessness, including employment assistance, health care, meals, and temporary housing.

While the Delonis Center strives to serve all those in need, sometimes staff restricts or suspends a guest's privileges because their behavior has become seriously disruptive. Extreme

misconduct, including violence, stalking, sexual predation, bullying, drug dealing, and illicit drug use at the facility, may warrant a formal trespass. In the past two years, 94 of the 1,808 individuals served by the Delonis Center ended up on the center's trespass list.

Ellen Schulmeister, CEO of SAWC, feels that resorting to the occasional banning of an individual from the Center's premises is sometimes necessary in order to keep the peace. “We have many people in our building and we have a responsibility to keep them safe,” she says.

The Delonis Center has a formal protocol in place to deal with disruptive behavior at its facility. First, staff members attempt to de-escalate the parties involved and moderate their behavior. The individuals are issued a warning; subsequent disruptions may result in ejection from the facility for the rest of the day. If the unwanted behavior continues, a manager has the authority to suspend a guest's privileges. Known as “indefinite suspension,” this is intended to be a cooling-off period. Guests given I.S. have access to first-floor services, including meals and the Warming Center, but they are prohibited from the residential program.

Only in situations involving violent behavior, drug dealing and use, and stalking do shelter staff generally pursue a formal trespass order against an individual. At this point, a police unit arrives and issues an order to the perpetrating individual, banning – or “trespassing” – them from the premises.

Homeless shelters and meal centers aren't the only institutions affected by the issue. Business owners often complain that the presence of homeless individuals at their storefronts or using their facilities is bad for business, and they

see TRESPASSED, page 11



Bethlehem United Church of Christ
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www.bethlehem-ucc.org (734) 665-6149
Bethlehem Church is the home of the Groundcover office.

Sundays:

8:30 am ~ Choir Rehearsal
8:30 am and 10:00 am ~ Worship
9:00 am ~ Confirmation Class
10:00 am ~ Church School
10:00 am ~ Young Adult Forum
11:30 am ~ Youth Fellowship

Upcoming Events:

April 2 ~ Saturday Worship ~ 5:15 pm
Wednesday Night Study Sessions on Spiritual Practice:
April 6, and 13 at 7:30 pm
How Then shall We Live Group:
April 10 (11:30 am) and 11 (11:00 am)
April 17 ~ Palm Sunday
April 21 ~ Maundy Thursday ~ Soup, Sandwich & Service
April 22 ~ Good Friday ~ 7 am to 7 pm ~ Vigil of the Cross
~ Worship 12 noon and 7:00 pm
April 24 ~ Easter morning ~ 7:00 am/Sunrise Service
~ 8:00/Easter Breakfast ~ 10:00 am/Worship
an invitation to grow in spirit and serve with joy

Hope is on the move

by Susan Beckett
Publisher

Hope Clinics have a long history of helping people in the Ypsilanti area with free medical and dental care. Open to any uninsured person who comes to their doorsteps, the need has exceeded their capacity to serve. With the construction of their new facility nearing completion, they will soon have the space to accommodate many more patients.

Hope Clinics provide compassionate and practical help to those in need, ministering to the whole person with dignity and respect. They provide a broad range of services. Hope Medical Clinic provides free medical care to low income children and adults without medical insurance. Over 100 volunteer medical professionals conduct more than 7,000 patient visits and fill more than 11,000 prescriptions each year. Hope Dental Clinic provides preventative and restorative dental care to low income children and adults without dental insurance. More than 4,000 patient visits occur each year – that's a lot of smiles! Other basic services, including 10,000 hot meals, groceries to more than 1,700 households a year, and access to free washing machines, come from Hope Social Services.

Historically spread throughout Ypsilanti, most of these services soon will be consolidated at 518 Harriet Street. The new medical wing features eight exam rooms, up from five at the current facility, along with a large pharmacy, charting room, and spacious waiting area that includes a children's play space. Clinic hours have been limited to eight clinic sessions per week because the cramped quarters made it difficult to prep the clinic while it was in use. Once more volunteer medical professionals are recruited, the clinic will expand in hours as well as capacity.

The dental wing sports seven state-of-the-art treatment rooms, as compared to the current four which

are outfitted with used equipment. A-DEC contributed over \$100,000 worth of dental equipment, including new dental consoles that have built-in x-ray machines that can be shared by adjoining rooms. Merillat-donated cabinets throughout complete the outfitting of this very modern facility. A Head Start partnership helped fund two of the exam rooms. The additional rooms will increase patient flow by allowing more efficient deployment of the dentists. They can each work multiple rooms, allowing anesthesia to take hold in one room while filling cavities in another, while yet another is sterilized and prepped

dryers, courtesy of Repairclinic.com. Consolidation of the clinics with the social services and administrative offices will offer greater convenience and accessibility for clients, and will improve the efficient deployment of staff and volunteers.

Volunteer doctors, dentists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and dental hygienists come from the community at large as well as St. Joseph Mercy Hospital and the U-M Hospital and Dental School. Several area dental labs provide their services for free. General volunteers frequently come from the ranks of those who

he relocated and got a new job. We're like a family and people want to help take care of their brothers and sisters."

Robinson recalled one young teen who came in for dental treatment. They discovered a possibly cancerous growth in her mouth and referred her immediately to the medical clinic for a biopsy. Fortunately, test results were negative, but the girl's appreciative parents came to the clinic to volunteer and help with publicity and outreach. The father, an accomplished accordionist, played for community members while they were dining at the old Oasis Cafe.

Clients with special skills have taken on projects such as repairing the furnace, painting parking lines on the newly paved lot, and washing the windows. Twins who came to the clinic always brought with them something to donate, such as pencils.

There are paid staff members who direct the volunteers, including two part-time doctors who work ten hours per week in the role of medical director, supervising more than 90 volunteer clinicians and managing a network of over 100 specialists. Hope recognizes the demands of various life stages, so while some clinicians come in every week, or even more once they retire, some others work only half a day every six weeks. When the addition is complete, Hope will start recruiting additional medical professionals and expand existing hospital and university partnerships.

"I went to the medical clinic with something like the flu and they gave me medicine. I was better within a day," says Tony S., the recipient of a small amount of the \$2,362,972 worth of prescription medications given to Hope Clinic patients and paid for by the donations Hope receives.

Lab tests and radiology are provided free by the St. Joseph Mercy Health System for patients who meet financial requirements. Though the clinic provides free primary health care for patients without health insurance or the ability to pay for health care, they do ask each

see HOPE, p. 10

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT



Hope executive director Cathy Robinson (far right) and Hope office staff.

for the next patient.

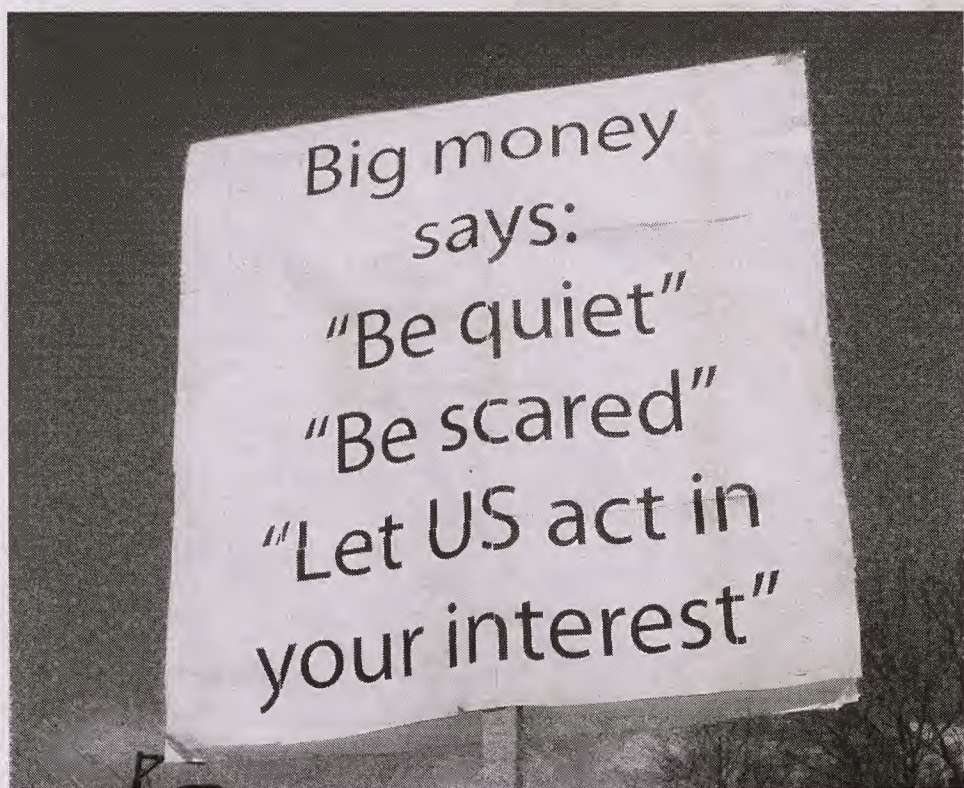
Once the administrative office move is complete, that and the current reception area will be turned into a community dining and meeting area with an expanded food pantry upstairs. Though Hope has been providing weekend meals for years, they have been doing it in other locations that are less convenient for patrons.

The Wash with Care program will get a big boost when the new laundry room soon is equipped with brand new washing machines and stacking

have received assistance themselves. They help with many tasks, including mailings, bagging and distributing food, data entry, meal preparation and serving, and building and repair projects.

"Most people, especially those who receive medical or dental help, are so grateful that they are very anxious to give back," says Cathy Robinson, executive director of the Hope Clinics. "Some help out right away and others, once they get back on their feet, will send in a check for \$10 or \$20. One engineer who had been laid off sent in a check for \$400 after

State of the union threatened with new policies



by Christopher Alexander

When I was a child, my grandfather's blue-collar wage from Ford Motor Company, and Ford's generous discount for employees, meant that every three years Papaw would trade in his gently used pickup for a brand new F-150. As soon as the truck docked in our driveway he'd tattoo the driver's side of the rear bumper with a "Buy American - United Auto Workers Local 182" sticker. For artful balance he'd paste "Solidarity Forever," on the opposite side.

My Pap doted over me and was exceedingly generous. But a child's insatiable appetite for toys and candy can strain even the most charitable, and I was from time to time told "no." His stock phrase for steadfastly declining my appeals sprang from rich union ground. When Papaw said, "That's not in the contract, kid," this signaled to me that negotiations were over.

In many ways, negotiations are just beginning for organized labor in America. Trade unions are fighting to remain relevant politically and economically, and this is most visible in Wisconsin, and to an extent, Lansing. By many measures unions are losing ground.

My granddad's beloved UAW has shed almost one million members over the past four decades - more than half its membership. These relatively well-paying manufacturing jobs have left our

region. It's difficult to imagine how they might return. It's worthwhile to reflect a little on how we got to this point and what happens if organized labor becomes irrelevant in America.

As I write this, today marks the centennial of one of America's worst industrial accidents on record. One hundred years ago, March 25th, 1911, 146 garment workers died in a fire in New York City's Triangle Shirtwaist Factory. Many cite the Triangle fire as the catalyst for the rise of twentieth-century trade unions, and American organized labor in general.

One hundred and twenty-nine of those killed were young, mostly Jewish and Italian, immigrant women. Their average age was 20. The primary reason for the high death toll was that most exits at the sweatshop were locked in a purported effort to prevent theft. Most of the casualties occurred when the women jumped from the ninth floor windows to avoid the flames. One quarter of a million New Yorkers filled the streets to memorialize and protest the loss.

Although working conditions improved as a result of public protest, it was almost another 60 years before the creation of the U.S. Occupational and Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the government's chief regulator for workers' safety.

Early this March, OSHA administrator David Michaels, in an interview with

National Public Radio, criticized the current Republican Congress for plans to slash nearly \$100 million from the agency's annual budget. "The Republicans have proposed a 20 percent cut and given [that] half a year's over, that really means a 40 percent cut," Michaels said. "It would really have a devastating effect on all of our activities."

Rather than comply with stringent safety regulations outlined and enforced by OSHA, in fact what happens is huge multinational corporations, with their allegiance to quarterly profits, just hoist their sweatshops out of America and to wherever safety compliance and labor is cheapest.

A fire this past December 14, at a garment sweatshop in the South Asian country Bangladesh, was jarringly similar to the Triangle fire of 1911. Like the New York fire, the Bangladesh factory's exits were reportedly locked. Like New York, most of the Bangladesh workers died as they leaped from the building's ninth floor windows. Again, the majority of the 26 victims were young women.

Bangladeshi workers are among the lowest paid in the world. Two days before the fire, the BBC reported that at least three garment workers were killed by authorities in protest strikes over the right to collective bargaining. To placate union organizers, last June the minimum wage in the country was raised from roughly \$23 to \$42 per month. Clashes erupted when most companies simply ignored the new law.

Media reports after the fire said that some of the multinationals doing business in Bangladesh include The Gap, Tommy Hilfiger, JC Penney, Levi Strauss and Wal-Mart. Bangladeshi sweatshops generate more than \$10 billion annually and flood the American market with artificially cheap clothes that cost our country countless jobs.

Historically, particularly after the Triangle fire, American workers' rights were closely aligned with the civil rights movement. When he was assassinated in 1968, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was in Memphis to support the city's striking sanitation workers. Just hours before he was shot, King gave a stirring speech that has come to be known as

the "I've been to the Mountain Top" speech. A less-quoted excerpt from that night pointed directly at the strikers.

"You are demanding that this city will respect the dignity of labor," King said. "So often we overlook the work and the significance of those who are not in professional jobs, of those who are not in the so-called big jobs. But let me say to you tonight that whenever you are engaged in work that serves humanity and is for the building of humanity, it has dignity and it has worth."

Reverend Jesse Jackson was at King's side in Memphis when the young civil rights leader was struck down. More than 40 years later, Jackson is in Madison supporting the most recent manifestation of the old fight. Jackson called Wisconsin "ground zero for workers' rights to bargain."

"These workers have been amazingly disciplined and nonviolent," Jackson said. "What they're saying is, 'We can negotiate wages and benefits, but not our right to be at the table.' People are going to fight back because they think their cause is moral and they have no place else to go."

Jackson blames corporate excess and conspicuous consumption for the looming battle. He says the rich are getting richer on the backs of what he calls "the least able people." His words are sharp.

"It's going to create a rebellion," Jackson said, "and so now it is revolt. They're revolting against a system that's not working for them. Too few got too much. Too many are getting poorer and the middle-class is sinking. The workers of America need a better deal. Workers are righteously, nonviolently fighting back. That's the best thing they can do."

It is difficult to identify the pivotal moment heralding the decline of organized labor in America. Some point to 1981 as the beginning of the end for unions. The first week of August that year, 13,000 of the nearly 17,500 members of the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization walked out on strike, in violation of a 1947 law banning strikes by federal government unions. President Ronald Reagan ordered the controllers to return to work or surrender their jobs. "They are

see UNIONS, page 7

High school teachers had a positive impact on Vendor Robert

by Christopher Alexander

Groundcover News vendor Robert Salo's art communicates complex ideas he has trouble articulating verbally. Although Robert has worked in every conceivable medium, currently he uses found objects from around town to create what he calls "Street Art."

"I create this to leave an impression," Robert said. "It's sort of like a time-capsule or a hope chest. I call this particular set of work '2010 Impressions.' It's the mediums I gather that inform the message."

Robert said his ambition to create stems largely from one influential teacher, Mr. Fox at Farmington High School, who in the early 1970's led him toward a serious interest in graphic arts. Because of Fox, Robert says that he has a practical approach to art.

"I try to make my art three dimensional and real to life, like you're actually there," Robert said. "I try not to be too surrealist. I wanted to be unique as an artist and an individual, so I learned to humble myself and to just be



Vendor Robert displays some of his "Street Art" at a recent Groundcover news meeting.

patient."

In the early 1980's Robert headed to the west coast to spend a year studying mountaineering in California with Dave Smith, a seasoned climber and instructor. He worked in the kitchen at Yosemite National Park for a time.

"They called me The Count of Monte Cristo," he joked, "because I had to count the sandwiches." It was at Yosemite that Robert met the famed nature photographer Ansel Adams, in 1984, the same year the artist died.

"I was at the park, heading over to the health clinic when I saw a man that looked like

Santa Clause," he said. Robert introduced himself and asked for an autograph. Adams was filming a biographical documentary about his life, but stopped to speak with him. "I asked him, 'What is it that you try to capture in your work?' As he was signing the autograph for me he said, 'Robert, it is so hard to verbalize,' and that was all he said."

Alongside art, Robert's second passion is for mass-media and newspapers. He attributes this interest to another high school teacher, Ms. Gruenberg. She persuaded him to study hard and he felt at the time that he would likely have a career in news.

"She was somebody that just brought out the best in me," he said.

After graduating from Farmington High School in 1974, Robert considered joining the military. His dream at the time was to be an aviator, a dream he still hasn't put completely to rest.

"I still have an ambition to fly, but I think it's probably beyond me now," he said.

Instead of joining the service, Robert moved to Flint where he worked at a local newspaper as the circulation manager. At the same time he studied computer programming at Mott Community College, but soon his interest in programming waned.

Robert is now planning to return to Eastern Michigan University soon to study computer aided graphic design.

Selling Groundcover helps Robert supplement his modest income, but it also allows him to interact and socialize with new people.

"Groundcover helped me to find myself again," he said. "I like being myself and meeting different people. I've gathered a lot of history about Ann Arbor, just talking to all of the people. I like it when they leave with a smile."

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Culinary Arts Club cooks up winning recipes

by Laurie Lounsbury
Editor

"It's not often that you hear the words 'vegan' and 'teenager' in the same sentence," said Joel Panozzo, co-founder of The Lunchroom pop-up restaurant. "That's why, when we heard about the culinary club at the Neutral Zone, we wanted to get involved."

Panozzo and his partner, Phillis Englehart, are vegan foodies who launched an under-the-radar restaurant business that served gourmet vegan meals to people on an invitation-only, pop-up restaurant basis last fall.

Englehart's son, Ryan Shea, grew up with great vegan food from his mother and next door neighbor Panozzo. Therefore, it wasn't a surprise when he took an interest in the Culinary Arts Club at the Neutral Zone.

The club was founded by Community High School seniors Sonya Kotov and Emma Machcinski.

"We were just talking one day about how much we like to cook, and we wanted to learn about more exotic foods and how to make recipes with them," Kotov said.

The club is unfunded and meets once a week, from 6-8 p.m. Wednesdays.

"Since they don't have any funds, we wanted to support them," said Panozzo. He and Englehart helped club members whip up a beautiful vegan spring dinner March 27 as a fundraiser for the club.

"The group did a full day of cooking to prepare for the dinner," Panozzo said. Members prepared a menu of fresh baked bread and delicious spread, crunchy spring rolls, spring greens salad, deconstructed stuffed zucchini and tangy lemon bars for dessert.

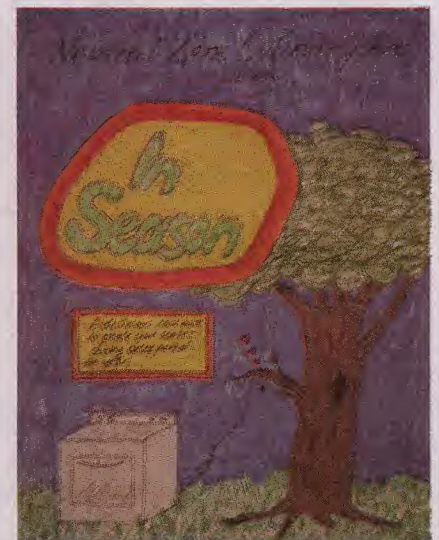
The experience gave the club the opportunity to see what it's like to cook for large groups of people.

"We learned that you have to plan ahead," said club member Heather Charles.

Englehart hoped the dinner would bring the club some needed funding. "We'd like to raise \$500-\$600 for them," Englehart said.

The club plans to release a cookbook called "In Season" this summer, which will feature recipes using locally grown, seasonal foods.

For more information about the Neutral Zone and the Culinary Arts Club, visit: <http://www.neutral-zone.org> or call 734-214-9995



Clockwise, from top left: Phillis Englehart serves up meals with the help of club member Heather Charles; artwork for the cover of the upcoming cookbook, "In Season"; Joel Panozzo puts the final touches on a meal; **COVER:** One of the culinary club's founders, Sonya Kotov and Neutral Zone art director Natalie Berry
Photos by Laurie Lounsbury

Unions weakened by consumer desires

continued from page 5

in violation of the law," Reagan said, "and if they do not report for work within 48 hours they forfeited their jobs and will be terminated."

Union members miscalculated the President's threat as sheer bluff. Two days later, though, as promised, Reagan fired 11,345 PATCO members; in addition, he banned them from federal employment for life.

"People have been taking this for about 30 years," said Michael Moore, the liberal activist and Michigan native, "ever since Reagan fired the air-traffic controllers. We should have stopped them then. We shouldn't have crossed those picket lines."

Moore's 1989 documentary film, *Roger and Me*, delved deeply into the economic impact of the decision by General Motors to close plants in his hometown, Flint, and move more than 30,000 jobs out of Michigan and into Mexico.

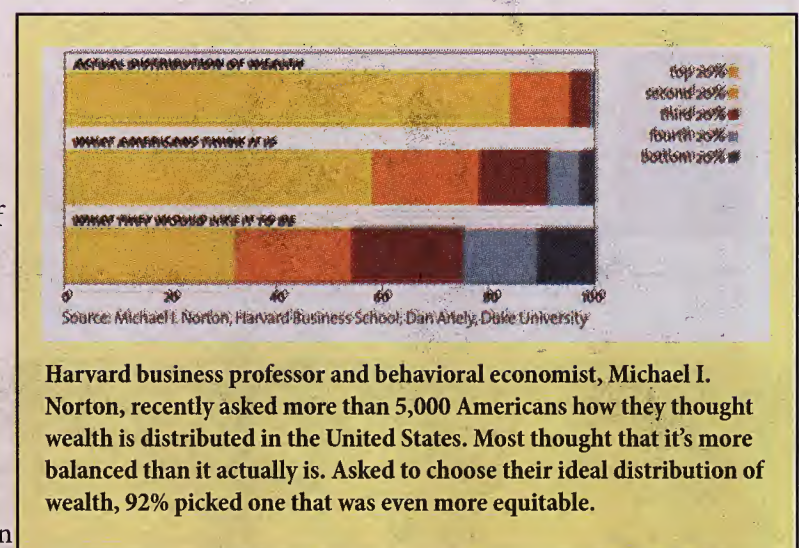
"This is war," Moore said about the standoff in Wisconsin. "This is class war that's been leveled against the working people of this country. At some point people are just going to have to stand up and say, nonviolently, this is enough. We're not going to take it anymore."

Robert Reich was Secretary of Labor for four years under President Bill Clinton. He disagrees with Michael Moore's assertion that Reagan is responsible for the decline of American unions. Reich said that at its peak,

labor union membership was more than a third of the country's workforce. Today the number has dipped below eight percent.

"Don't blame Ronald Reagan or corporate greed," Reich said. "Blame us – you and me. You see, starting about 30 years ago and with increasing efficiency, technologies have given us consumers a world of choice – low-priced goods and services that often depend on low wages here and elsewhere."

"We as a nation have traded off lower priced goods and services, in place of a unionized workforce with the bargaining clout to get higher wages. So now, a lot of us get good consumer deals and lousy paychecks."



Harvard business professor and behavioral economist, Michael I. Norton, recently asked more than 5,000 Americans how they thought wealth is distributed in the United States. Most thought that it's more balanced than it actually is. Asked to choose their ideal distribution of wealth, 92% picked one that was even more equitable.

Sudoku ★★★★★☆ 4puz.com

2			8	1		4		
	1	3						
		8			4			
6	8					5		9
3		7				2		6
9		5					4	3
			1			9		
						8	5	
		6		5	2			4

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

ACROSS

1. Skin blemishes
5. Long stories
10. Gloomy ambiance
14. Blackthorn
15. River in Northern Ireland
16. Cookie brand
17. Silversmith who rode into history on April 18, 1775
19. Close
20. Same meaning (abbr.)
21. Japanese title
22. Cord worn around the neck
24. Wall covering
26. Gaming cube
27. Singing voices
30. Actor Young
32. Lumberjack
36. Ship seized by mutineers on April 28, 1789
38. Oolong
40. Flag hanger
41. Pear variety
42. He became the U.S. Vice President on April 21, 1789
44. Finger millet
45. Hamlet in England
46. Grown boy
47. Scavenging beasts
49. "_____ it! C'mon! I dare you."
51. Small bite
53. Something of value
54. Type sizes
56. Summons
58. Enthusiastic
62. Rodent
63. Pronoun
66. Stare at
67. Where Robert E. Lee surrendered on April 9, 1865
70. Fictional submarine captain
71. Stringed instrument
72. Become misshapen
73. Town in India
74. Go in
75. TV show "Deal _____ Deal"

DOWN

1. Snakes
2. Sculpting material
3. Person, place, or thing
4. Lamprey
5. Asian tree

Historic Events in April

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15						16		
17			18							19		
20				21			22		23			
			24			25		26				
27	28	29			30		31		32		33	34
36				37		38		39		40		
41				42	43					44		
45				46				47	48			
49			50		51		52		53			
			54		55		56		57			
58	59	60			61		62				63	64
66				67		68				69		
70				71						72		
73				74						75		

6. Pouring concrete
7. Company that markets to computer gamers (abbr.)
8. Reiner or Sagan
9. Golfer Sam
10. Mail service that opened for business on April 3, 1860
11. Region
12. Title character of a Shakespeare play
13. God
18. Cook
23. Actress Peeples
24. He discovered Florida on April 2, 1513
25. Ship that sank on April 15, 1912
27. Monastery
28. Poorly fitting
29. Teeth
31. Jewel
33. Sounds of pain
34. Vegetable matter
35. _____ Point, Scotland
37. Potato
39. Burnt residue
43. Actor Duryea
48. Crimean city
50. Yoko
52. Early release
55. Debonair
57. Texas university
58. Region
59. City in Hungary
60. _____ mater
61. Whirl
63. Headliner
64. Clarion
65. World's Fair
68. Cooking vessel
69. Number

Puzzle by Jeff Richmond

Cryptoquotes

"Z NFAB BT X CTTHKBTUF XAS XKHFS BJF KXOFKNTXA

NJFUF BJF KFOV JFOL KFIBZTA NXX. KJF KXZS ZV KJF BTOS EF

ZB NTWOS SFVFXB BJF LWULTKF"

- SFAAZK EZOOFU

Mark your calendar... the next Groundcover News meeting will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 7, at Bethlehem United Church of Christ, located at 423 S. Fourth Ave, Ann Arbor. Anyone interested in getting involved is encouraged to attend.



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A Fight

by Austin

A fight is a cancer patient in need hanging on to the threads of life

fighting off their disease, waiting to be saved.

A fight is a wounded service man or woman shot by the bullet of battle.

A fight is a war going on in distant countries for salvation of people.

A fight is an abandoned war veteran coming home to America with no family, job or house.

A fight is that same veteran fighting off life to live it.

A fight is simple minded people destroying other people mentally and physically.

A fight is me trying to ward off the wrong turns in life, a fight is us

Austin attends Huron High School and is the youngest vendor at Groundcover News

GROUNDCOVER VENDOR CODE OF CONDUCT

While Groundcover News is a nonprofit organization, and newspaper vendors are considered contracted self-employers, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper.

The following list is our Vendor Code of Conduct, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

All vendors must agree to the following code of conduct:

- Groundcover News will be distributed for a voluntary donation of \$1. I agree not to ask for more than a dollar or solicit donations by any other means.
- I will only sell current issues of Groundcover News.
- I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or top handle, including panhandling with only one paper.
- I will wear and display my badge when selling papers.
- I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover News Staff and will not sell to or buy papers from

other Groundcover News vendors, especially vendor who have been suspended or terminated.

- I agree to treat all customers, staff, other vendors, respectfully. I will not "hard sell," threaten, harass or pressure customers, staff, or other vendors verbally or physically.
- I will not sell Groundcover News under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover News but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.
- I understand that my badge is property of Groundcover News and will not deface it. I will present my badge when purchasing the papers.
- I agree to stay off private property when selling Groundcover News.
- I understand to refrain from selling on public buses, federal property or stores unless there is permission from the owner.
- I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor. I will also abide
- by the Vendor corner policy.

If you see any Groundcover News Vendors not abiding by the code of conduct, please report the activity to:

contact@groundcovernews.com
734-972-0926

Puzzle Solutions

Cryptoquote

"I went to a bookstore and asked the saleswoman where the Self Help section was. She said if she told me it would defeat the purpose."

- Dennis Miller

A	C	N	E		E	P	I	C	S		P	A	L	L
S	L	O	E		L	A	G	A	N		O	R	E	O
P	A	U	L	R	E	V	E	R	E		N	E	A	R
S	Y	N		O	M	I		L	A	N	Y	A	R	D
				P	A	I	N	T		D	I	E		
A	L	T	O	S		G	I	G		A	X	M	A	N
B	O	U	N	T	Y		T	E	A		P	O	L	E
B	O	S	C		A	D	A	M	S		R	A	G	I
E	S	K	E		M	A	N		H	Y	E	N	A	S
Y	E	S	D	O		N	I	P		A	S	S	E	T
				E	N	S		C	A	L	L	S		
Z	E	A	L	O	U	S		R	A	T		S	H	E
O	G	L	E		A	P	P	O	M	A	T	T	O	X
N	E	M	O		V	I	O	L	A		W	A	R	P
E	R	A	N		E	N	T	E	R		O	R	N	O

Sudoku ★★★★★ 4puz.com

2			8	1		4		
	1	3						
		8		4				
6	8					5		9
3		7				2		6
9	5						4	3
			1			9		
						8	5	
	6		5	2				4

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

Hope clinics consolidate, add new medical wing

continued from page 4

patient to make a \$5 donation if they are able to do so. There are two weekly walk-in clinics, including one open 8:30 a.m. on Saturday for new patients; appointments are also available. Most of the medical clinic's patients are adults, since children almost always have health insurance now, either through Medicaid or MICHild, if not through private insurance. They account for just 4% of the clinic's medical visits, compared to 24% of the dental clinic's visits.

The dental clinic employs two full-time staff dentists. A volunteer dentist, Dr. Kevin Sloan, specializes in prosthodontics and has been the volunteer dental director since he headed up the planning and implementation of the dental clinic in 1993. Along with his duties as clinic director, he accepts Hope patients as referrals for bridges and dentures and serves on the Hope board of directors. He also recruits other volunteers. Hope is a Christian organization and the opportunity to live out the message of the gospel and give back in thanks for

being blessed keeps Dr. Sloan and many others coming back.

"The need is overwhelming and the gratitude for serving is amazing," says Sloan. "I make a lot of dentures for people with no teeth. The change it makes in their lives is amazing. They can go out in public, eat, smile, they are out of pain and employable. There was one Grandmother who told me later that the greatest change for her was that her young grandchildren kept telling her how beautiful she was."

"They treat you like a paying customer," extols Tony S., a Groundcover vendor. "They're real kind. They greet you by your first name and say 'hi.' They pulled three of my teeth out and the whole thing only took twenty minutes. All you have to do is be on time. They pulled my teeth and cleaned them but it takes a really long time to get the new teeth, like two to three years. I'm lucky I've got the paper so I'm saving up my money so I can get my teeth sooner at U-M."

The greatest need in the dental clinic is for general dentists and specialists

who will accept patients as a one-time referral and treat them in their own offices for dentures, crowns, bridges or root canals, services Hope does not provide at the clinic.

Even with the expansion, Hope will not be able to meet the need for adult dental care. Children's dental care is covered by Medicaid and they can be treated at U-M, the Washtenaw County Children's Clinic (operating out of Mack Elementary School in Ann Arbor), and at private clinicians who accept Medicaid. Hope takes Head Start and uninsured children immediately. Twenty new adult patients are accepted at regularly scheduled patient sign-up days. They recently changed their intake procedure to a single-hour call-in, 9 to 10 a.m. on a Saturday. Previously, they had lines forming the evening before with people waiting in line overnight for the 7:00 a.m. registration – some waiting for hours only to find out they weren't in the 100 patient pool that could be accepted that day.

Hope started a satellite clinic in 2007 in Western Wayne County (which was recently damaged in the highly

publicized fire at Frank's Furniture store) to alleviate crowding issues and better serve the 46% of new patients that came from western Wayne County. Another satellite clinic was started in Chelsea. It has since spun off to become the Chelsea Grace Clinic, and continues to serve Western Washtenaw County.

Services available free elsewhere are not offered at the medical clinic. Pregnancy and STD testing, tuberculosis testing, and immunizations are available at the County Health Department. The dental clinic does not provide emergency care to non-clinic patients. The medical clinic does not provide prescriptions for birth control, fertility treatment, or erectile dysfunction.

For more information on volunteering or receiving services, visit thehopeclinic.org or call (734) 484-2989. The Medical Clinic and Hope Center will be closed April 25 to May 1, and reopen in the new building May 2.

The Dental Clinic will be closed May 2 to May 8, reopening on May 9 in the new building. Weekend meals will continue to be served throughout this

Groundcover News writers workshop helps novices and experienced writers hone their skills

by David K.E. Dodge

Writers for "Groundcover News" (GCN) attended a writer's workshop Saturday, March 26, at First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor, under the auspices of GCN. Widely published freelance writer, Vickie Elmer, developed and presented the workshop. John Hilton, Editor, The Ann Arbor Observer; Grace Shackman, freelance writer; and Laurie Lounsbury, Editor, GCN, joined Ms. Elmer in sharing their expertise as pub-

lished authors and editors, with the attending GCN reporters.

Subject matter for the session included "Finding Great Stories," "An Introduction to Reporting Skills," "Writing and Self-Editing," "Laws You Need to Know," and "Twitter and other Tools." This reporter was impressed by just how many advanced skills are developed by successful practitioners of the art of Journalism. Having a strong command of writing is essential, but

is just the beginning.

A luncheon followed the workshop, attended by both the presenters and the GCN reporters. Thanks from GCN and all the participants to Zingerman's Deli for their great lunch; to Mity Nice Italian Ice for donating paper goods, tea, and chips; to Roos Roast for coffee; to The Ann Arbor Observer/arborweb.com (John Hilton) for note pads and other printed material, and to First Baptist Church-Ann Arbor for

providing the meeting space and dining facilities.

On behalf of all the attending GCN reporters, this reporter extends thanks to Susan Beckett, publisher of GCN, for her coordinating efforts in bringing the workshop together, as well as to the authors and editors who provided valuable insights and guidance, from expertise gathered over what are, cumulatively, many years of experience.

Groundcover Announcements

The next Groundcover volunteer meeting will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 7 in the Gallery Room at Bethlehem United Church of Christ, located at 423 S. Fourth Ave, Ann Arbor. Anyone interested in getting involved is encouraged to come.

The 2011 NASNA conference (the national convention for street newspapers) will be held in Nashville, TN, Thursday, October 13 to Sunday, October

16, 2011. Let us know if you are interested in attending.

Thanks to the Milstein Family and VMT for the computer donations and to Catherine Martin Buck for the filing cabinet.

Thank you, our readers, for your continued patronage and support!

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Rare animal sightings in the Arb captivate UM senior

by Laurie Lounsbury
Editor

A hiker who was exploring the Huron River shoreline in Nichols Arboretum was amazed to discover a pride of Lolcats living near the riverbank.

"I thought Lolcats were just an online myth," said Avrille Fouel, a U-M college senior majoring in environmental oddities. She has spent the last four years probing every nook and cranny of the Arb in search of endangered and rare species of animal and plant life. To date, the senior has made several remarkable discoveries, including a healthy, albeit inebriated, specimen of the almost extinct North American Four-toed Sloth.

"The four-toed sloth wasn't really in the Arb," Fouel clarified. "I found it doing a keg stand in the parking lot of the Eye Drinka Lone fraternity. It's amazing what a sloth can do with two extra toes."

The pride of six Lolcats was mostly

shielded from view in their lair made of Odtaa* brambles. Measuring 404* centimeters in length, the Lolcats are small and sleek. Fouel was surprised to see that, unlike other breeds of cats, the Lolcats thoroughly enjoyed swimming in the river.

"One of them looked like a tiny synchronized swimmer when it crossed its front paws over its cute little nose and extended its hind legs in the air. It was adorable."

When Fouel bravely approached the Lolcats and tried to pet them, they hissed at her with a noise that sounded like "Tey hyooman gots to go stoopid."

"I think I got too close to them at feeding time, so they were understandably upset," Fouel said, noting that they were rooting around in a pile of small cheezburgers that they can haz.

In addition to Lolcats and Four-toed Sloths, Fouel found a lone DORD*



The rare DORD, which has two tails, two noses and a second tail.

wandering through the Peony Garden. The DORD, while rare, is very distinctive with its extra tail, two noses, second tail and another nose.

"They're pretty weird looking, but cute in their own way," Fouel said, adding, "I think they're cute."

Fouel said her most interesting experience was sighting the Math Wolverine.

"You don't see them often, but when

you do, you know what you're looking at because of its unique gait. In spite of its four strong legs, the Math Wolverine has a tendency to put three down and carry the one."

The usually environmentally sensitive citizens of Ann Arbor are hoping the Math Wolverine quickly becomes extinct. The species is undesirable due to its inability to block and tackle.

Fouel said it's unlikely to have another Lolcat sighting until next fall.

"They typically go into hibernation on April Fool's Day and don't reappear until students return to school in the fall," she explained.

*Internet slang, aka "Netlingo" definitions are: DORD - "Department of Redundancy Department;" Odtaa - "One darn thing after another;" 404 - "I haven't a clue;" and of course, Lolcat - that's a whole subject of its own, so you may want to consult Prof. Google to learn about Lolcats.

Tresspassing laws leave homeless with nowhere to eat or sleep

continued from page 5

sometimes go to considerable - and costly - lengths to keep itinerants moving on their way. Ann Arbor's biggest business, the University of Michigan, has issued over 2,500 trespass warnings over the last ten years, according to a recent Michigan Review article. A large portion of individuals who received these warnings were homeless. The public transportation system is also affected, with numerous individuals trespassed from AATA buses each year for disruptive behavior, many of them homeless.

While these legal measures may be justified, the question remains: What does a homeless person do once he or she has been banned from an essential service?

Ann Arbor resident James faced just this problem two years ago. James, a bright and well-spoken young man of 20 who has struggled with

homelessness ever since he left the juvenile system in 2008, was trespassed from the Delonis Center for possessing a knife on the center's property. James was officially banned from the Delonis Center's property for one year.

Just a few months after his ban began, the Delonis Center made an internal decision to lift James's trespass. It was then, James asserts, that he was falsely accused by another guest of once again possessing a knife. Delonis Center staff placed him on I.S., banning James from the residential program he had depended on.

The shelter has an appeal process in place that allows both trespassed and I.S. guests to challenge the decision and apply for re-admission. Guests can fill out a grievance form, a lifting of I.S. or trespass form, or speak with a manager about their case. Their appeal is reviewed by the management team and then by the Client Advocacy

Committee, with the guest's entire history at the center taken into consideration. The committee's decision is final, but further, separate requests for admission can be made. In the vast majority of cases, the center arranges for the person to return, says Schulmeister.

In James's case, he was not willing to fill out the necessary paperwork because he felt it required an admission of guilt. "I felt, why should I admit to something I didn't do, to get permission to come back to the shelter? I believe it was very unfair, because all situations permitted, the shelter isn't always right."

Because he refused to accept protocol, James was consequently left to fend for himself, sleeping illegally on various private properties, such as ATM booths and parking structures, where he experienced further run-ins with law enforcement and received several more trespass orders. The police

were generally very respectful and tolerant in their dealings with him, he says. But there was little in their power to fundamentally improve his situation.

Now two years later, James is still homeless.

In James's experience, this tough situation is fairly common among the homeless. "Businesses and local governments frequently will trespass people from places where they're not allowed to sleep," James said. "But at the same time, the shelters will trespass people from their grounds and they can't sleep there - thus eliminating pretty much any legal place where someone could sleep, or some place that wouldn't be an issue for people to sleep."

Once trespassed, a homeless person faces the possibility of arrest and jail time for repeat offenses. However, James has not witnessed this happen very often in his time spent

homeless. "There are still spots where the police do trespass people occasionally and it's not a very stable place to sleep, but [people] can usually get away with it."

What can a homeless shelter do to help guarantee a roof over every head? A perfect solution seems elusive.

"There is no solution for all people, and there is no solution if the person will not or cannot participate in solutions," Schulmeister says. "The Delonis Center wants to provide services to as many people as we can. We cannot run an unsafe place; we do not have bouncers; we cannot allow drug use or sale; we must have rules to keep order; and we can only use the resources we have to help."

Delonis Center staff refers banned patrons to Washtenaw County's Project Outreach Team (PORT) for ready-to-eat foods, tents, and sleeping bags.

Takin' it to the streets

From Lansing to Ann Arbor, Michiganians were out in force recently to rally around causes they support.

RIGHT: In Lansing, the rally was to protest sweeping powers given to governor appointees which will have a dramatic effect on collective bargaining.

BELOW: In Ann Arbor, laborers showed their solidarity with public workers in Michigan and Wisconsin.

BOTTOM: Supporters of Planned Parenthood organized a rally at the U-M Diag to back the organization in the face of a House bill that will cut all government funding to its health centers. The organization provides basic health services and prevention screening to low income women.

Photos by Laurie Lounsbury, Richard Scott and Christopher Alexander

